

TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephone interview conducted on or about August 21, 2006.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-34 are pending.

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-10, 13, 16, 17 and 20-22 stand rejected by the Examiner.

Claims 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, 19, 23, 24, 26 and 29 stand withdrawn.

Claims 15, 18, 27, 28 and 30-33 stand objected to.

Claims 25 and 34 stand allowed.

Claims 8, 16, 27, 30 and 32 have been amended, without prejudice herein.

Claims 1-7, 15, 18, 20-24 and 26 have been cancelled without prejudice herein.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

CHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Applicants previously submitted (on August 7, 2006) a new Power of Attorney and a change of correspondence address. Applicants respectfully request all correspondence regarding this application be addressed to the address associated with Customer Number 45,722.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that Claims 25 and 34 are allowed. Applicants further gratefully acknowledge that claims 15, 18, 27, 28 and 30, 31, 32 and 33 stand objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Solely for purposes of expediting allowance of this application, Applicants have amended the present Claims as follows.

Claims 1-7 have been canceled without prejudice herein.

Objected to Claim 15 depended directly from independent Claim 8. Independent Claim 8 has been amended to include the subject matter and limitations of dependent Claim 15, which claim was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Amended Claim 8 now contains the subject matter of dependent Claim 15, and is in condition for allowance. Claim 15 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 9-14 and 29 depend ultimately from independent Claim 8. While Claims 11, 12, 14 and 29 were withdrawn as directed to a non-elected species, as amended Claim 8 is an allowable generic claim, Claims 11, 12 and 14 are now allowable. Allowance of Claims 9-14 is respectfully requested.

Objected to Claim 18 depended directly from independent Claim 16. Independent Claim 16 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent Claim 18, which claim was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Amended Claim 16 now contains the subject matter of dependent Claim 18, and is in condition for allowance. Claim 18 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 17 and 19 depend ultimately from independent Claim 16. While Claim 19 was withdrawn as directed to a non-elected species, as Claim 16 is an allowable generic claim, Claim 19 is now allowable. Allowance of Claims 16, 17 and 19 is respectfully requested.

Claims 20-24 and 26 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 25 and 34 stand allowed.

Claim 27 stands objected to, but is indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Claim 27 has been amended to be independent in form, including the all of the limitations of now canceled claims 1, 2, 3 and 5. Claim 28 depends from Claim 27. Allowance of amended Claim 27 and dependent Claim 28 is respectfully requested.

Claim 30 stands objected to, but is indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Claim 30 has been amended to be independent in form, to include the

limitations of previous Claim 13 and Claim 8, from which Claim 30 depended. Allowance of amended Claim 30 is respectfully requested. Claim 31 depends from amended Claim 30 and is likewise in condition for allowance, early notification of which is respectfully requested.

Claim 32 stands objected to, but is indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 32 depended directly from previous Claim 16. In response, Claim 32 has been amended to be independent in form, and to include all of the limitations of previous Claim 16. Allowance of amended Claim 32 is respectfully requested. Claim 33 depends from amended Claim 32 and is likewise in condition for allowance, early notification of which is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all of claims 8-14, 16, 17, 19, 25 and 27-34 presently appearing in the application are in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicant believes he has addressed all outstanding grounds raised in the outstanding Office action, and respectfully submits the present case is in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any questions or outstanding matters, the Examiner is cordially invited and requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at his number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward J. Howard', is written over a horizontal line.

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Dated: August 29, 2006